

To G.D. for file

SECRET-SECURITY INFORMATION

file

Political Affairs Division

Nov. 7, 1952

Karl F. Mautner

Conversation with Reuter re Kampf Gruppe
November 6, 1952

Reuter showed me the teletype copy of the UP dispatch and stated that this apparently was the immediate cause of Tillich's "exclusion." He stated that Tillich had not been "expelled" from the party; to do this was a very complicated matter, he had let his membership lapse, since he had not paid his dues. There had been discussions about Tillich's status in the SPD but no Board decisions had been taken. Tillich, on the other hand, had on several occasions volunteered that it might be better if he'd unburden the SPD of his membership. Reuter did not deny that it was quite probable that the opportunity to exclude Tillich for non-payment of dues was not unwelcome to many in the SPD, leaving it open whether or not he included himself in the "many" or not.

Reuter stated that he had not seen Tillich recently but expected to see him in the near future and gave no indication of having any intention of postponing such a meeting.

The above mentioned UP dispatch was sent to Reuter by Arno Scholz but - Reuter contends - got into his hands only this morning since he had been sick and did not pick up any mail last night. (Reuter was really sick because he left his office at 1100 yesterday intending to go to bed. This I know). He might have been able to change some of Scholz' story in today's Telegraf otherwise, he thinks.

Reuter then said that Tillich of course is difficult to deal with. He is uncooperative and overly ambitious. A position such as his should be held by a man willing to work in complete anonymity for the sake of the cause and not inject himself into all kinds of overly ambitious ventures and publicity stunts. How, by the way, could Tillich live as well as he does with an income of 600 Marks? Mr. Houck had stated that all accounts were in order, nevertheless the above fact still gave Reuter a certain amount of uneasiness. (This is the first time Reuter has mentioned to me that he had doubts in Tillich's personal integrity. Previously his complaints concerned only "recklessness".)

Reuter continued that he found three things that were absolutely necessary to get the situation straightened out:

1. The "Kulturelle Hilfe" must be kept entirely separate from the other Kampfgruppe affairs.

2. One must get a man who is trusted fully by the Federal people, the Berlin Government and of course the U.S. to become Tillich's sidekick. (Reuter stated that he had nobody in particular in mind since it was the hardest thing to dig out that kind of person).

SECRET-SECURITY INFORMATION

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

Drawn

3. Friedrich of the Verfassungsschutz must be kept fully informed by the Kampfgruppe of its activities.

Comment: Reuter was quite evasive about the "Amasschluss" business. The UP dispatch comes from Herrmann Zolling's pen, a man who has, I believe, a poor reputation with indications that he has been - to say the least - used by the East as a vehicle for Eastern purposes. He was involved (I don't know the details any more) in some unpleasant things during the World Youth Festivals. He fell for the Gero v. Galera story of the "70 Nazi organizations" in West Berlin and has figured in other UP stories of a nature which raised doubts about his loyalties.

Reuter also insinuated that without the UP story, nothing would have happened, as if only this was the cause of Tillich's ouster.

Theoretically a person can be dropped from the SPD rolls, I hear, after not paying his dues for 3 months and after having been served notice. He has a right to appeal, once dropped.

To expel someone from the party for other reasons is indeed known as a very complex ritual involving practically the required reappearance of August Bebel's spirit over the conference table in the darkened room of the "Vorstand", shaking his "bearded brow" and turning thumbs down on the black sheep to be chastened.

BE:PA:K FMautner/gmh